

Intelligence Agencies Inquiry Set

Vinson Committee Acts as Walter Schedules Hearing

By John G. Norris
Sports Reporter

Chairman Carl Vinson (D-Ga.) of the House Armed Services Committee named a three-man special subcommittee yesterday to conduct a "complete investigation" of Government intelligence agencies.

Stressing that his Committee has jurisdiction over the Pentagon's intelligence units and the Central Intelligence Agency, Vinson seemed to be suggesting to the House Un-American Activities Committee that it stay out of the case of the two National Security Agency defectors.

Chairman Francis E. Walter (D-Pa.) of the Un-American Activities group, already has announced plans to call NSA officials Sept. 16 for questioning about the defectors.

President Eisenhower, commenting on the incident, said it means that the Administration must review its "entire" security procedures "to see if there is any one way we could better it." "We must be always on the alert, very alert," he told a news conference.

Congressman Walter, however, told newsmen that the President "has made it abundantly clear he doesn't want to cooperate" with his group in trying to eliminate subversives from Government. He cited a White House refusal to furnish the names of many Federal "security risks," holding non-sensitive, non-policy-making jobs, who were fired earlier but reinstated as the result of a Supreme Court decision.

Some Pentagon and other Administration officials privately have expressed concern over the possibility of a free-wheeling House Un-American Activities Committee probing into the defection of NSA code

clerks Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin. They fear that a renewal of a McCarthy-type loyalty investigation—involving top secret intelligence agencies this time instead of the State Department—could do untold harm.

Vinson's announcement that three veteran members of the House Armed Services Committee who already are privy to many defense secrets and procedures will investigate the case was viewed as a move to conduct a "more responsible and pertinent" inquiry into the whole situation, without compromising vital military secrets.

Meanwhile, it developed that the Rep. Wayne L. Hays (D-Ohio) may have been the Congressman Mitchell and Martin said they visited 13 months ago to warn that the United States "was sending planes over Russia."

Hays, interviewed by telephone at his home in Flushing, Ohio, said two men visited his Capitol office then with such a story. He said they represented themselves as CIA employees and complained about the American flights, but urged that their identity not be revealed lest they lose their jobs "and their families would suffer."

To the best of his recollection and that of Mrs. Hays, the Congressman said, neither of the men looked like the published photographs of Mitchell and Martin. He said he had their names "somewhere in his desk in Washington" but didn't recall them.

Hays said he reported the incident to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, of which he is a member and a subcommittee chairman. He said that because of his position, Government employees often bring complaints to him. Because of this—and to keep from discouraging such informants—he said he didn't report the matter to the CIA.

In their Moscow press conference, Mitchell and Martin said they had gone to a Congressman who had publicly expressed concern over the State Department concealing from his Committee some later revealed facts about the American C-130 plane shot down over Russia in September, 1958. They did not give the name of the Congressman, but dispatches in The Washington Post files showed that Hays had made a protest at the time.

The two defectors said in Moscow that while they were in Hays' office, Assistant Secretary of State William Macomber had phoned the Congressman and asked him to refrain from further public discussion of the C-130 incident. Hays said he didn't recall any such call from Macomber and "certainly wouldn't have discussed it with two strangers." The Mitchell-Martin statement did not indicate that Macomber—if he made such a call—knew about their presence in Hays office.

Vinson said his Committee already has gathered considerable data in the NSA case "without publicity," and that to make the "thorough" probe that is warranted, he has ordered a special subcommittee to get to work "without delay."

"The Committee on Armed Services has jurisdiction over these matters," Vinson said in a statement. "And the Committee will exercise its jurisdiction. This is the Committee charged by the Congress with the responsibility for looking into matters of this nature."

Rep. Paul J. Kilday (Tex.), ranking Democratic member of Vinson's Committee, was named chairman of the special subcommittee, along with Rep. Leslie J. Arends (Ill.), ranking Republican, and Rep. Porter Hardy Jr. (D-Va.). Kilday said he had not yet set a date for a first meeting.

On the final day of the special session last week, Walter introduced a resolution authorizing his group to investigate the NSA defection case. It was not passed. Subsequently, the Un-American Activities Committee announced it was subpoenaing the NSA personnel chief and his records for closed door testimony Sept. 16, after the Pentagon had refused its investigators access to the records of the case.

Yesterday, Walter asserted that more than 1000 "security risks" now hold Government jobs, and that President Eisenhower has refused since last January to supply their names.

He showed newsmen correspondence he has had with the White House, in which he has tried to obtain the names of all employees who were separated from the service under the loyalty program but rehired after a 1956 Supreme Court decision permitted the restoring of employees fired from non-sensitive jobs.

Walter revealed his fruitless correspondence after President Eisenhower told a news conference that no problem has engaged his attention over the years more than making airtight the Nation's security proceedings.

Walter said that on Feb. 19, 1960, David W. Kendall, special counsel to the President, refused his request for the names of those rehired after the 1956 decision, declaring that the President "has concluded that it would not be in the national interest."

Again on April 19, Walter said, the White House again refused to furnish the names on the same ground as before. He said that many of those rehired hold what he considered sensitive jobs, some in the Pentagon.

In calling the persons involved "security risks," Walter defined the term as covering: members of Communist or Communist front organizations, homosexuals, alcoholics and persons who associate with known Communists.

Kendall, in declining to release the names, said the disclosure of adverse information "often includes allegations that are unfounded or rebuttable." Walter declared in a letter to the White House that his Committee investigators have collected data from which he concludes that the rehiring of the persons is "a danger to the security of the Nation." He said he wants to question the individuals behind closed doors to help prepare legislation preventing Communist infiltration of the Government.

In another development, the Justice Department declared in a formal statement that reports that the FBI had furnished the Pentagon unfavorable information on Mitchell and Martin prior to their employment was erroneous. It said the pre-employment investigation on the two was conducted by the Defense Department, not the FBI.

Walter has been quoted as saying that the FBI had informed the Pentagon before they were hired that one was a homosexual. A Defense spokesman said that "I am informed there is not" anything in the personnel record of either Mitchell or Martin indicating homosexuality. The Justice Department declined to investigate subsequent to their disappearance indicated such adverse information.